

Statistics in focus

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Authors

György BENOIST

PoI MARQUER

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Farm structure in Germany – 2005

73% of the agricultural land and 61% of livestock are in
farms of 50 ha or more

This Statistics in Focus is part of a series of country-specific publications on the results of the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) 2005. It provides a brief but nevertheless comprehensive insight into the farm structure in Germany. A similar publication was issued in March 2005 presenting the results of the FSS 2003 in Germany.

In May 2005 in Germany, about 371.1 thousand* agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least 1 European Size Unit (ESU).

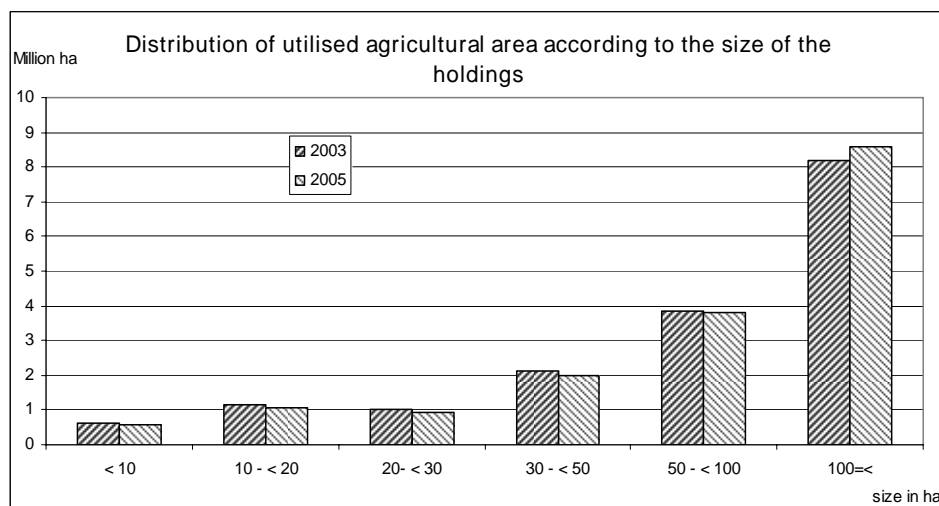
- These holdings employed 634.7 thousand AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 634.7 thousand persons working full time;
- they made use of about 17 million ha of agricultural area, which is on average 45.7 ha per holding (compared to 43.3 ha in 2003).

Among these 371.1 thousand agricultural holdings

- 34% made use of less than one AWU, while 26% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 19% used less than 5 ha agricultural area, while 8% used 100 ha or more;
- 21% were holdings specialised in dairy farming, 16% were specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops, 9% various grazing livestock (including sheep), 9% were engaged in combined field cropping and grazing livestock and 8% in general field cropping;
- 50% of their agricultural area was situated in less favoured or mountain areas;
- 4% were organic farms;
- 9% benefited from direct investment aid.

Among the 366.2 thousand sole holders

- 9% were women;
- 27% were aged 55 or more, and 9% were younger than 35 years;
- 43% had another gainful activity as their major occupation.



Due to differences in the threshold across Member States, the total number of farms is not comparable between countries. This is why the present analysis, including Tables 1-4 and the graphs focus on holdings of at least one ESU. See methodological notes for more information on the concept of the ESU.

Germany 2005 – Holdings of at least 1 ESU

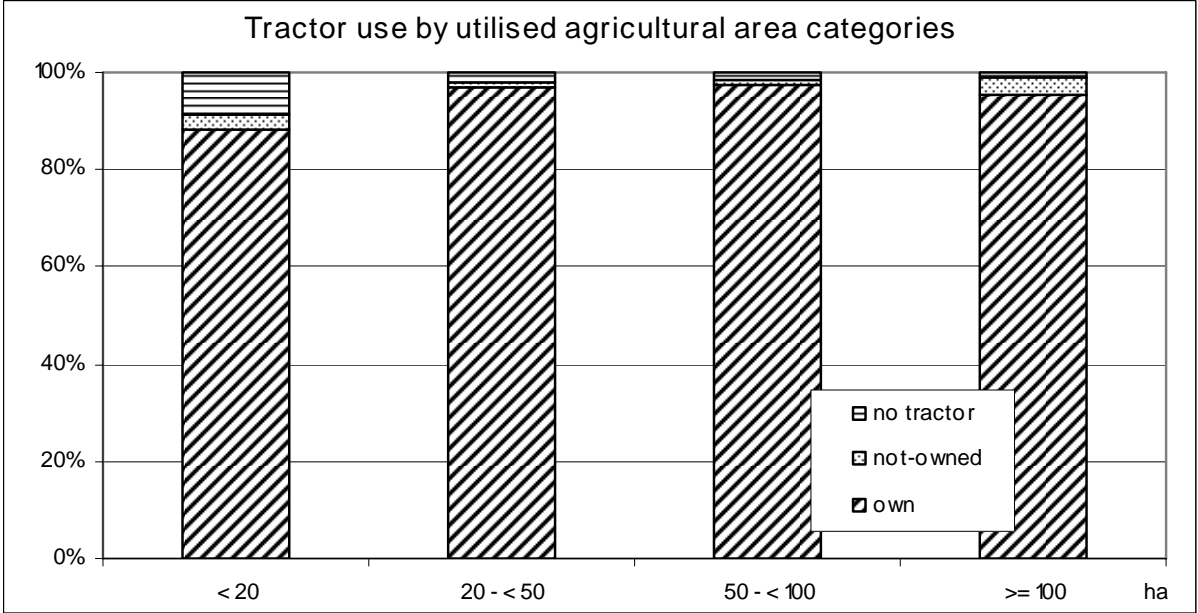
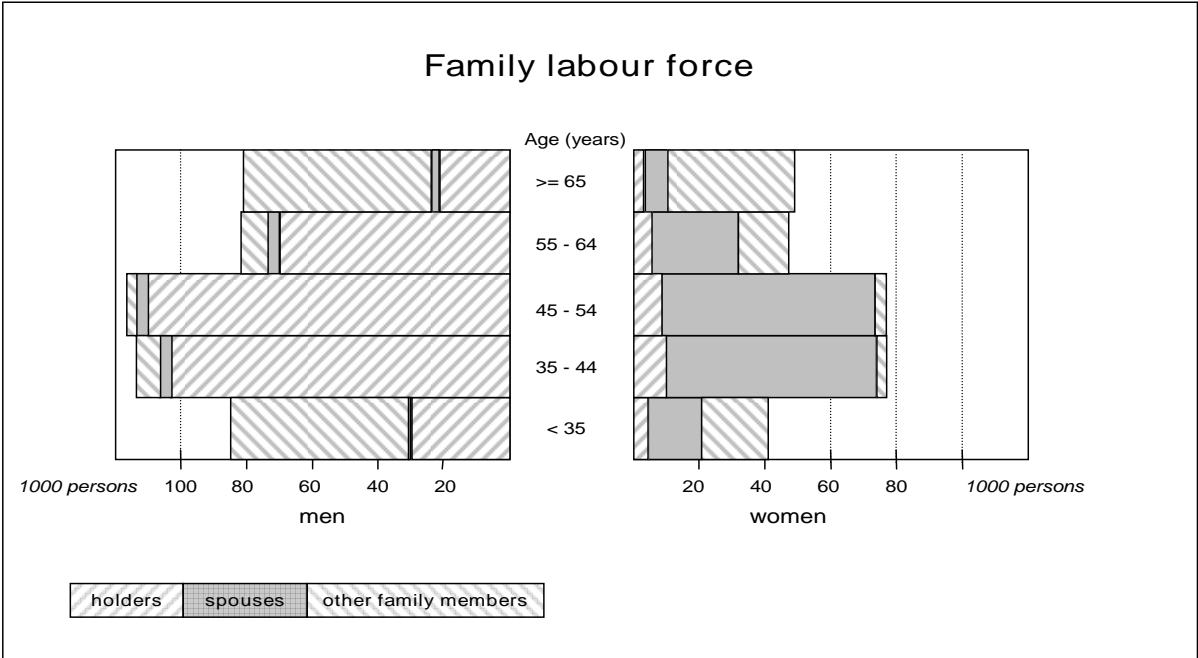
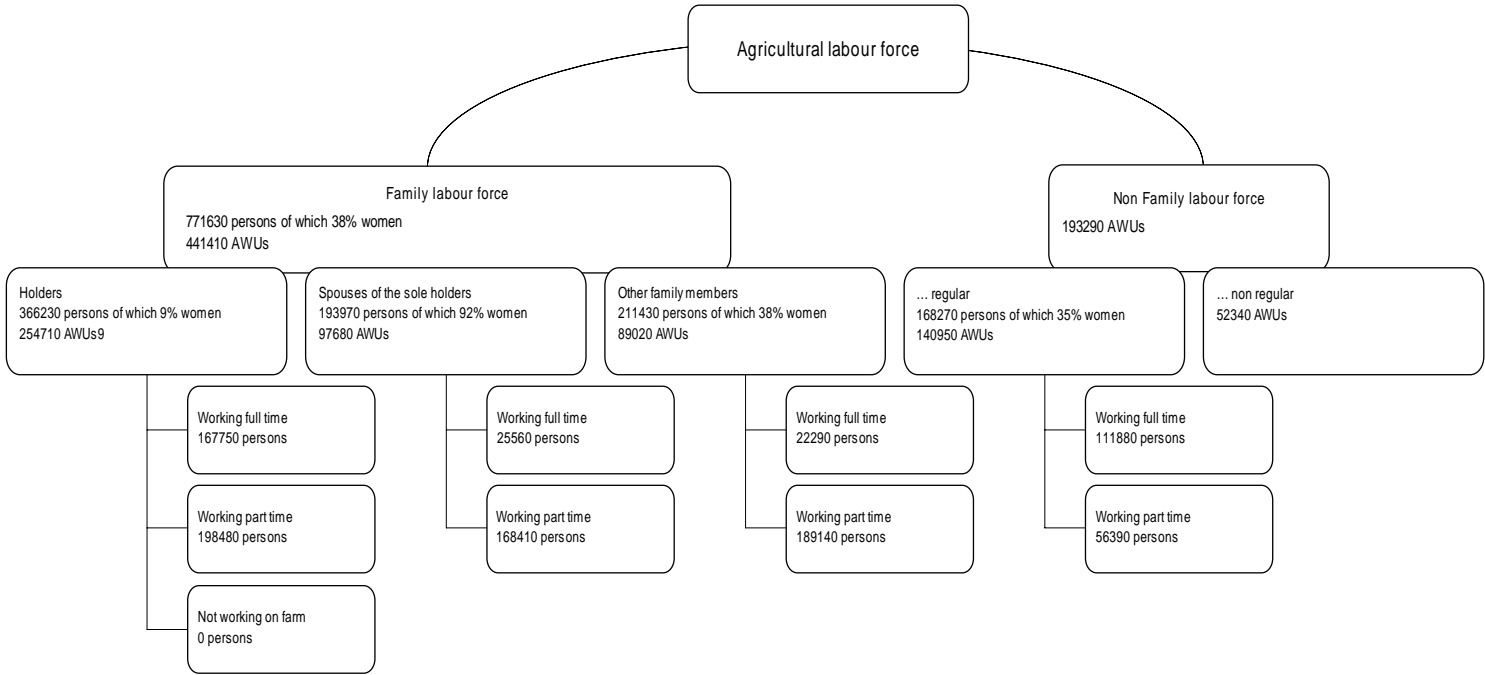


Table 1 – Labour force by size of the farms

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU*)			
	< 20	20 - < 50	50 - < 100	100 = <		0	0 < - < 50	50 - < 100	100 = <
Total labour force									
1000 annual work units	225.3	150.2	114.4	144.7	634.7	177.9	212.1	90.1	154.5
Family labour force									
1000 persons	387.2	199.8	126.2	58.4	771.6	185.8	374.0	110.2	101.6
1000 annual work units	177.0	129.8	90.6	44.0	441.4	92.3	193.9	80.0	75.1
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	46.4	15.0	17.7	89.1	168.3	57.0	18.2	10.9	82.2
1000 annual work units	34.9	11.3	13.5	81.4	141.0	45.8	12.4	8.4	74.3
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	13.5	9.2	10.3	19.4	52.3	39.7	5.8	1.8	5.1
Holding managers (1000)	198.0	88.4	54.2	30.4	371.1	101.9	176.6	45.8	46.7
- women (%)	10.9	5.7	4.0	5.1	8.2	9.5	9.6	4.2	3.9
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	51.0	14.5	4.8	4.0	31.7	46.4	37.9	4.4	2.8
- 50 % and over(%)	26.7	23.0	10.7	6.8	21.8	18.4	30.5	11.1	6.8
- with a basic agricult. training only (%)	25.7	24.3	17.4	11.7	23.0	21.4	26.5	22.0	14.5
- with a full agricultural training (%)	29.1	57.6	74.8	84.1	47.1	45.4	33.7	68.3	80.6
Sole/main holders (1000)	196.7	88.1	53.9	27.5	366.2	100.6	176.0	45.5	44.1
- women (%)	11.4	6.1	4.5	5.0	8.6	10.2	10.0	4.5	4.0
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	9.1	9.9	9.7	8.8	9.4	8.1	9.6	10.1	10.7
- from 35 to 44 years	29.2	31.8	33.9	34.5	30.9	28.6	30.3	33.1	36.5
- from 45 to 54 years	31.3	33.6	33.5	34.5	32.4	32.5	31.8	34.2	32.8
- from 55 to 64 years	21.0	20.8	20.0	18.0	20.6	22.0	20.8	19.6	17.7
- 65 years and over	9.3	3.9	2.9	4.1	6.7	8.9	7.5	3.0	2.3
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	51.3	14.6	4.8	4.4	32.1	47.1	38.0	4.4	2.9
- 50 % and over(%)	26.8	23.1	10.7	7.5	22.1	18.7	30.6	11.2	7.2
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	66.2	37.6	16.1	11.6	48.6	56.3	60.7	17.6	9.8
- as main occupation	61.0	29.7	10.1	5.5	42.6	51.1	54.1	10.9	5.2
- as a subsidiary occupation	5.2	7.9	6.0	6.1	6.0	5.2	6.6	6.6	4.7
Spouse of sole holder working on the holding (1000)	93.7	51.6	34.2	14.5	194.0	45.3	91.8	29.6	27.3
- women (%)	89.2	94.4	95.8	95.6	92.2	89.3	91.3	96.0	96.3
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	7.5	9.9	10.4	9.8	8.8	7.6	8.1	10.4	11.5
- from 35 to 54 years	68.0	72.1	74.7	77.1	71.0	67.2	70.1	74.3	76.7
- 55 years and over	24.5	18.0	14.8	13.1	20.2	25.1	21.8	15.4	11.8
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	66.0	38.7	35.7	38.3	51.3	64.0	57.0	27.6	37.1
- 50 % and over(%)	25.3	44.9	46.7	41.7	35.5	24.3	32.3	52.4	46.5
- with another gainful activity (%)	34.4	23.1	18.9	19.3	27.5	32.8	31.6	16.5	17.1
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	96.8	60.1	38.1	16.4	211.4	40.0	106.2	35.1	30.2
- women (%)	39.5	39.2	35.7	33.5	38.3	37.5	39.2	39.5	34.4
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	74.1	60.8	52.7	47.7	64.4	71.5	70.3	52.2	48.8
- 50 % and over(%)	20.0	28.9	29.9	28.7	25.0	19.1	23.3	32.5	30.2
- with another gainful activity (%)	23.0	19.4	12.8	9.9	19.2	19.7	23.1	15.5	9.0

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

* LU = Livestock Unit

¹ Refers only to holders who are also farm managers.

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)			
	< 20	20 - < 50	50 - < 100	100 = <		0	0 < - < 50	50 - < 100	100 = <
Holdings									
- total number (1000)	198.0	88.4	54.2	30.4	371.1	101.9	176.6	45.8	46.7
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	96.7	96.2	91.6	71.3	93.7	92.7	97.8	93.5	81.0
- legal person	0.7	0.4	0.5	9.5	1.3	1.4	0.3	0.6	5.5
- group holders	2.6	3.4	7.9	19.3	5.0	6.0	1.9	5.9	13.5
- by employed labour force (%)									
- under 1 AWU	54.8	17.0	5.6	2.8	34.3	50.2	41.3	4.6	2.4
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	32.3	53.1	48.5	28.4	39.3	27.7	43.1	49.3	40.4
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	8.0	23.6	34.1	31.5	17.5	10.1	12.6	36.1	33.7
- 3 AWU and over	4.9	6.4	11.8	37.3	8.9	12.0	2.9	10.0	23.5
- by economic size (%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU	58.4	4.1	0.2	0.0	32.2	41.5	43.6	0.0	0.0
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU	18.5	13.3	1.4	0.2	13.2	14.8	19.0	1.0	0.0
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU	15.5	41.4	12.6	3.0	20.2	16.8	27.7	18.3	1.5
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU	5.0	37.2	59.8	21.8	22.1	14.5	8.1	74.4	40.3
- 100 ESU and over	2.6	4.1	26.0	75.0	12.3	12.4	1.7	6.3	58.2
- by farm type (%)									
- specialist dairy farming	11.7	34.5	33.8	19.5	21.0	0.0	21.5	53.0	33.5
- specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops	16.9	12.9	10.3	24.3	15.6	31.6	13.6	1.6	2.1
- sheep, goats and other grazing livestock	14.8	3.8	2.1	2.9	9.3	7.8	14.1	2.6	1.2
- field crops – grazing livestock combined	7.5	8.9	11.8	16.3	9.2	2.4	13.1	11.3	6.9
- general field cropping	6.3	8.6	11.5	16.5	8.4	17.0	6.5	2.6	2.7
- other types of farming	42.9	31.2	30.5	20.3	36.5	41.2	31.1	28.9	53.6
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	2.8	4.6	3.8	4.9	3.6	2.4	4.6	3.9	1.8
- irrigating	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
- with fixed irrigation equipment	3.0	1.4	1.7	2.8	2.4	6.1	1.0	0.8	1.2
- with crops under glass	4.7	0.5	0.3	0.4	2.7	8.9	0.5	0.1	0.1
- benefiting of direct investment aids	4.4	10.4	16.7	23.5	9.2	6.0	6.3	16.5	19.8
- using a tractor (%)	91.1	98.1	98.7	98.9	94.5	89.8	95.3	98.5	97.9
- with their own tractor	88.2	96.8	97.2	95.3	92.1	85.4	93.6	97.7	95.8
- using a combine harvester (%)	31.9	57.9	71.2	85.1	48.2	39.0	45.5	59.2	67.9
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production (%)	20.6	24.9	26.2	28.7	23.1	24.8	22.7	23.2	21.0
- tourism	4.0	4.1	3.2	3.7	3.9	3.3	4.8	3.1	2.3
- handicraft	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1
- processing of farm products	9.9	7.8	7.7	8.7	9.0	14.2	7.7	6.2	5.2
- wood processing	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.3
- aquaculture	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.2
- renewable energy production	2.3	5.7	7.5	7.5	4.3	3.0	3.3	7.0	8.1
- contractual work	2.1	6.3	7.9	10.9	4.7	3.8	4.0	8.1	5.7
- other gainful activities n.a.e.	5.4	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.6	4.8	6.9	3.8	3.9

Symbols : not available

0 less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the farm	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)			
	< 20	20 - < 50	50 - < 100	100 =<		0	0 < - < 50	50 - < 100	100 =<
Area (1000 ha)									
Total area of agricultural holdings	2149.1	3401.7	4140.5	9049.8	18741.2	3826.6	4712.3	2939.9	7262.5
Other area	488.6	473.0	342.7	461.6	1765.9	399.8	727.2	271.2	367.7
Wooded area	393.8	398.1	264.7	301.4	1357.9	310.3	614.9	217.3	215.4
Agricultural area	1660.5	2928.8	3797.9	8588.2	16975.3	3426.8	3985.1	2668.6	6894.8
Arable land	807.6	1755.4	2540.3	6793.8	11897.1	3058.5	2333.3	1516.7	4988.7
Cereals	540.6	1040.9	1433.2	3823.9	6838.5	1843.3	1466.3	814.2	2714.7
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	171.6	396.8	618.8	1975.4	3162.5	1076.0	621.3	335.5	1129.8
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0.2	0.9	2.0	7.9	11.1	4.7	2.0	0.8	3.5
<i>Rye</i>	28.4	45.8	76.6	407.6	558.4	124.2	89.4	49.1	295.7
<i>Barley</i>	204.8	367.3	442.1	932.6	1946.7	424.8	485.7	283.2	753.0
<i>Oats</i>	48.7	62.8	49.3	75.2	236.0	32.6	107.5	43.5	52.4
<i>Grain maize</i>	47.7	95.2	139.5	160.7	443.1	115.6	71.5	35.2	220.8
Dried pulses	6.5	11.7	17.6	133.0	168.7	50.4	28.6	15.8	74.0
Root crops	31.7	93.3	176.1	404.3	705.3	308.7	144.2	62.5	189.9
<i>Potatoes</i>	15.0	34.6	73.1	154.1	276.8	102.8	53.2	28.7	92.2
<i>Sugar beet</i>	15.2	56.8	101.0	247.2	420.1	204.1	87.6	32.7	95.8
<i>Fodder root</i>	1.6	1.9	2.0	3.0	8.4	1.8	3.5	1.2	1.9
Industrial crops	51.8	121.3	207.5	1048.6	1429.3	450.7	223.2	128.1	627.3
<i>Tobacco</i>	0.7	1.3	1.6	1.1	4.6	2.9	1.0	0.4	0.3
<i>Hops</i>	4.3	8.9	2.5	1.5	17.3	8.7	6.0	1.2	1.4
<i>Cotton</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	45.0	107.7	197.0	994.2	1343.9	415.9	209.0	122.6	596.4
<i>Sunflower</i>	0.6	0.8	1.5	24.2	27.1	7.0	2.9	1.5	15.6
<i>Soya</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	14.4	19.3	29.4	57.4	120.5	81.6	17.0	5.3	16.6
<i>outside</i>	13.6	19.2	29.4	57.4	119.5	80.7	16.9	5.3	16.6
<i>under glass</i>	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.0
Flower and ornamental plants	7.0	0.7	0.5	0.6	8.8	7.7	0.7	0.2	0.2
<i>outside</i>	4.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	6.4	5.4	0.7	0.2	0.2
<i>under glass</i>	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	2.3	0.1	0.0	0.0
Forage plants	123.6	365.7	506.4	808.0	1803.7	84.7	304.7	401.6	1012.7
Fallow land	31.0	100.8	166.0	491.6	789.5	222.9	144.3	86.9	335.4
Kitchen garden	2.1	0.9	0.9	0.7	4.7	1.4	2.0	0.5	0.8
Permanent pasture and meadows	748.0	1126.6	1234.8	1767.9	4877.4	201.2	1625.4	1148.9	1901.8
Permanent crops	102.8	45.8	21.8	25.8	196.1	165.7	24.4	2.6	3.5
Fruit and berry plantation	27.3	18.3	6.9	13.7	66.2	52.8	10.1	1.4	1.9
Citrus plantation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Olive trees	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vineyard	63.1	19.1	10.1	4.8	97.0	86.9	8.8	0.6	0.7
Ratios									
Agricultural area per holding (ha)	8.4	33.1	70.0	282.7	45.7	33.6	22.6	58.2	147.7
Agricultural area... (%)									
... own farmed	65.4	52.9	40.5	22.8	36.1	37.0	49.2	40.2	26.5
... in less favoured or mountain area	59.1	53.5	50.9	45.8	49.5	26.8	55.1	59.3	53.8
... organic farmed	3.4	4.3	3.5	4.4	4.1	2.7	5.8	5.1	3.3
... irrigated	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Symbols : not available

0 less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the farm		Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)		
		< 20	20 - < 50	50 - < 100	100 = <		0 < - < 50	50 - < 100	100 = <
Total livestock	(1000 LU)	2734.7	4322.5	5599.2	5465.3	18121.7	2903.9	3265.7	11952.1
of which grazing	(%)	43.0	59.9	53.2	59.6	55.2	84.4	81.4	40.9
Grazing livestock	(1000 heads)								
Equidae		210.9	127.7	79.7	61.5	479.7	355.6	71.4	52.7
Bovine animals		1333.7	3422.7	4022.4	4249.3	13028.0	2889.2	3488.9	6649.9
Under 1 year		429.5	1079.5	1310.5	1265.0	4084.5	867.3	1052.9	2164.3
From 1 to less than 2 years		302.8	798.1	964.7	921.0	2986.5	673.1	785.9	1527.5
Dairy cows		341.5	1105.8	1313.2	1475.4	4236.0	802.7	1219.2	2214.0
Other cows		152.0	162.2	135.9	296.1	746.2	308.7	144.9	292.6
Other bovine animals 2 years and older		107.9	277.1	298.0	291.8	974.9	237.3	286.0	451.6
Sheep		688.9	337.2	478.8	1083.8	2588.7	1003.1	603.4	982.2
Goats		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Granivores									
Pigs	(1000 heads)	3436.6	6610.4	9350.8	7458.1	26855.9	1927.9	2625.4	22302.6
Piglets < 20 kg		1096.0	2222.8	2217.8	1593.0	7129.5	823.1	1052.7	5253.7
Breeding sows		387.2	788.5	761.0	604.9	2541.6	239.6	332.5	1969.6
Other pigs		1953.4	3599.1	6372.0	5260.3	17184.8	865.2	1240.2	15079.3
Poultry	(million heads)	61.2	15.8	23.1	20.4	120.5	3.6	3.0	113.9
Broilers		24.4	7.9	14.8	9.7	56.8	0.2	0.5	56.0
Laying hens		32.9	5.7	5.2	6.7	50.5	3.2	2.3	45.0
Other poultry		4.0	2.1	3.1	4.0	13.3	0.2	0.2	12.9
Rabbits, breeding females	(1000 heads)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Beehives	(1000)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Average size of herds*									
Equidae	(head/holding)	7.1	9.6	8.9	11.2	8.4	8.2	10.4	7.5
Cattle	(head/holding)	19.4	58.4	110.2	240.9	71.8	26.0	88.4	215.4
Dairy cows	(head/holding)	11.9	26.6	47.2	119.4	38.4	15.0	37.0	92.2
Other cows	(head/holding)	5.4	6.8	9.5	43.1	10.2	7.1	7.4	28.5
Sheep	(head/holding)	39.8	77.3	162.7	450.1	95.8	45.8	247.8	363.4
Goats	(head/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Pigs	(head/holding)	93.5	255.5	531.4	955.2	305.1	39.4	184.7	896.3
Breeding sows	(head/holding)	31.7	66.8	108.8	227.9	75.5	15.1	50.3	175.7
Other pigs > 20 kg	(head/holding)	57.9	145.8	372.3	688.3	206.5	19.2	91.2	612.3
Rabbits, breeding females	(head/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Laying hens	(1000/holding)	0.7	0.3	0.7	2.2	0.7	0.1	0.3	8.5
Broilers	(1000/holding)	4.3	4.4	12.3	15.2	6.1	0.0	0.7	39.8
Beehives	(hive/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

* Number of animals of a given livestock category per holding with this kind of animal.

		Absolute figures			% of total	
		Total	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU
Regular labour force	(1000 persons)	970.0	30.1	939.9	3.1	96.9
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	590.8	8.5	582.4	1.4	98.6
Holders	(1000 persons)	385.0	18.8	366.2	4.9	95.1
... at least 65 years old		28.1	3.7	24.5	13.0	87.0
... having another gainful activity		179.0	12.6	166.4	7.0	93.0
Number of holdings	(1000)	389.9	18.8	371.1	4.8	95.2
... producing mainly for own consumption		0.0	0.0	0.0	:	:
... producing mainly for direct sales		:	:	:	:	:
... using a tractor		365.3	14.6	350.6	4.0	96.0
Standard Gross Margin (SGM)	(1000 ESU)	19392.2	13.1	19379.1	0.1	99.9
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	17035.2	59.9	16975.3	0.4	99.6
... owned farmed		6173.5	43.9	6129.6	0.7	99.3
Livestock	(1000 LU)	18149.2	27.5	18121.7	0.2	99.8

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings 2005 in Germany was carried out using a sample survey. A full-scale agricultural census has been conducted previously in 1999. The FSS 2005 consisted of two programs: a basic one on land use and livestock characteristics (reference time: 3rd of May), and a complementary one covering the labour force and other structural variables (reference period: from May 2004 until April 2005).

The target population were all the holdings above defined recording limits (thresholds). The farm register and the holding list of the FSS 2003 were used to form this population; the latter one was the frame for the sampling. The newly established units were included, as well. For the sampling, a single-stage selection procedure was used: each holding assigned to the 1st stratum (in ascending order of strata) where it fulfils the criteria of the stratum. The total sample size (100 thousand) was distributed between the Länder taking into account comparability in terms of the reliability of the results. 28 strata were established according to size groups of UAA and animal stocks, but separate strata were formed for holdings with a high level of specialisation (e.g. poultry, large stocks of animals, hops, tobacco). Attenuated proportionality and Neyman-Tschuprow methods were used for the allocation; the final selection rates were determined by calculating a weighted mean value. For each Land, 5 individual samples were selected. For each of them, estimations of 36 important characteristics were made, and, on the basis of a comparison between the extrapolated results and the corresponding total values of the target population, the best sample was chosen.

For each activity ('enterprise') on a farm (for instance wheat, dairy cow or vineyard), a standard gross margin (SGM) is estimated, based on the area (or the number of heads) and a regional coefficient. The sum of such margins in a farm is its economic size,

expressed in European Size Units (ESU). 1 ESU is equal to 1200 euros.

Each farm is classified in the community typology by its economic size and its type of farming, depending on the share of each enterprise in its economic size. For instance, a farm where breeding sows account for more than 2/3 of the economic size, is classified as *specialist pig rearing* (type 5011). Depending on the level of aggregation, farms are grouped into 8 to 70 types.

Annual work unit (AWU) is equivalent to a worker employed on a full time basis for one year. In Germany it is 1800 hours (225 working days of 8 working hours per day).

Livestock Unit (LU) is equivalent to a dairy cow. The number of animals (number of heads) is converted into LU using a set of coefficients reflecting the feed requirements of the different animal categories.

Subsistence farming refers here to all farms below 1 ESU economic size. Note that the number of farms cannot be compared between countries due to the differences in coverage of FSS.

► REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Selected provisional results were published in a press release, Federal Statistical Office Germany, Wiesbaden, January 2006.

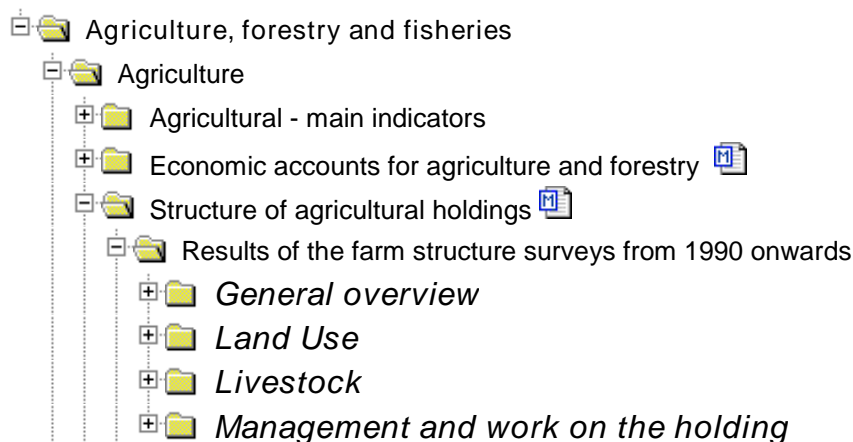
Final results are published in "Fachserie 3: Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Fischerei", Federal Statistical Office Germany, Wiesbaden

Website of the Federal Statistical Office Germany: www.destatis.de

National Methodological Report – FSS 2005 (available on request)

Further information:

Data: [EUROSTAT Website/Theme: Agriculture and Fisheries/Data](#)



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